

CLAIMS

1. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device (3, 4), **characterised** by an activity sensor for sensing activation of the pointing device, said activity sensor comprising a threshold comparator (10), wherein the activity sensor is adapted
5 to enable energization of the pointing device (3, 4) when the sensed activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold.
2. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 1,
characterised in that the threshold is adjustable.
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3. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 1 or 2,
characterised in that activity sensor comprises a timer (11) adapted to switch
off the energization of the pointing device (3, 4) after a time has elapsed without
any sensed activation of the pointing device (3, 4).
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4. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 3,
characterised in that the time is adjustable.
5. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to any one of
20 claims 1 to 4, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a detector device
(7, 8, 9) for sensing a capacitance change at the pointing device (3, 4).
6. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 5,
characterised in that the detector device comprises an oscillator (8) with a
25 resonant circuit (7).
7. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 6,
characterised in that the capacitance of the pointing device (3, 4) forms part of
the resonant circuit (7).
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8. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 5,
characterised in that the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.
9. An input device comprising a pointing device (3, 4) and an activity sensor for
35 sensing activation of the pointing device, **characterised** in that said activity
sensor comprises a threshold comparator (10), wherein the activity sensor is
adapted to enable energization of the pointing device (3, 4) when the sensed
activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold.

10. An input device according to claim 9, **characterised** in that the threshold is adjustable.
- 5 11. An input device according to claim 9 or 10, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a timer (11) adapted to switch off the energization of the pointing device (3, 4) after a time has elapsed without any sensed activation of the pointing device (3, 4).
- 10 12. An input device according to claim 11, **characterised** in that the time is adjustable.
- 15 13. An input device according to any one of claims 9 to 12, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a detector device (7, 8, 9) for sensing a capacitance change in the pointing device (3, 4).
14. An input device according to claim 13, **characterised** in that the pointing device comprises a ball (4) capacitively connected to the detector device (7, 8, 9).
- 20 15. An input device according to claim 14, **characterised** in that the ball (4) is a metallized plastic ball with a plastic or rubber coating.
- 25 16. An input device according to claim 14 or 15, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises an oscillator (8) with a resonant circuit (7), the capacitance of ball (4) forming a part of the resonant circuit (7).
17. An input device according to any one of claims 13 to 15, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.
- 30 18. A portable device (1) including a display (2) for showing menus in which navigation may be performed by means of an input device (3, 4), **characterised** in that the input device is according to any one of claims 9 to 17.
19. A portable device according to claim 18, **characterised** in that the portable device is a mobile telephone (1).